

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS

Nationally Recognized

Collaborative Experience

Learn Together and Play Together

1. BE FAIR
2. BE INCLUDED
3. BE SMART
4. BE INDEPENDENT
5. BE SAFE
6. BE ACTIVE
7. BE COMFORTABLE

7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design were proudly developed in partnership with:



7 PRINCIPALS OF INCLUSIVE PLAY



Principle 1: Be Fair- The play environment provides social justice by being equitable and usable by people of all abilities so they can enjoy their right to play.

1a-A combination of Engineered Wood Fiber and **Poured-in-place rubberized safety surfacing** creates accessible routes of travel offer equitable access to the play equipment and throughout the play environment allowing people of all abilities to actively engage in play |

1b- A variety of **multisensory activities** are intentionally integrated throughout the play environment to address the needs of the whole child by **encouraging physical, social, communication, cognitive, and sensory development**

1c- The overall environmental design communicates the inclusive nature of the park, making a fundamental statement that play is valued for children of all abilities. Inclusive play elements are integrated throughout to create a **welcoming environment** that promotes an **atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance.**



Principle 2: Be Included- The play environment supports the participation of individuals with diverse abilities in social & physical activities for inclusive, intergenerational play.

2a- Dramatic play elements such as the **Balcony Deck with Playwheel, Telephone Tubes, Store Panel and Table and Seat for Two,** and **Drum Line** offers various types and forms of play opportunities that promote creativity, imagination, discovery, and social engagement between users.

2b- Play activities intentionally address the needs of beginner (Ex. **Button Climb** and **Transfer Point**) intermediate (Ex. **Vertical Access Ladder** and **Coil Climber**), and advanced (Ex. **Rock Climbing Wall** and **Wiggle Wave Climber**) level climbing, balancing, spinning, swinging, sliding, and overhead events to ensure that there are developmentally appropriate choices for children at every skill level, while promoting physical activity and fitness

2c- Choices in method of participation or use are offered throughout the play environment, providing various ways that the play elements can be used or accessed to accommodate the needs of a wide variety of users. (Ex. **Button Climb** can be used for balancing, sitting/gathering, imaginary play, etc. **Accessible Driving Panel, Drum Line, Telephone Tubes,** and **Rain Wheel** provide choices of how the user manipulates, engages, or enjoys the activity, regardless of fine motor ability. Users have **multiple ways to access the structure** through climbers, links, transfer steps, and ramps.).

2d- The play environment strategically provides **inclusive, intergenerational, and equitable play experiences** that support both the physical and social inclusion of people of all ages and abilities. Specifically designed to promote inclusive play, activities such as the **Telephone Tubes, Echo Chamber** and **Answer Wheel** encourages communication and interaction between users.



Principle 3: Be Smart- The play environment is easy to understand, allowing individuals to be successful and gain confidence through play.

3a- The variety of colors and texture provide important visual cues within various play components to help visually organize activity areas so the environment is easy to understand and naturally promotes developmental play behaviors. – O

3b- Activities such as the Playwheel with ADA Balcony Deck, Triple Activity Panels with activities such as the Answer Wheel, Hypno Wheel, and Echo Chamber, and musical components such as Drum Line and Music Panel are located both on the structure and at ground level providing visual, tactile, and auditory feedback to help increase understanding of cause and effect and bring learning outdoors in fun ways.

3c- The play environment is carefully designed to avoid unnecessary complexity and provides consistent accessible routes of travel from components like slides to climbers to support children's intuitive, developmental play patterns such as "looping". This allows children to easily repeat the activity over and over to gain skills and confidence, be more successful, and engage in longer periods of meaningful play.



Principle 4: Be Independent- The play environment allows children to effectively explore and participate in play at their own level

4a- The playground is organized with a variety of **multisensory features**, such as contrasting colors, textures, and activities that provide meaningful cues, sensory stimulation, and support the development of the whole child.

4b- Sensory rich play elements such as the **Double Cascade Slides, Curved Velocity Slide, Single Velocity Slide, Single Cascade Slide One-For -All swing, belts swings** and **Tilt-n-Twirl** offers vestibular and proprioceptive stimulation and helps children develop a sense of balance and movement through space.

4c- **ADA Ramps** provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to access and engage in the developmental benefits the playground has to offer



Principle 5: Be Safe- The play environment addresses current safety standards while providing developmental opportunities needed for exploration and challenge.

5a- Elements like the **slide transfer** provide safer play experiences for children of all abilities, while additional supports such as **handholds** and **barriers** allow children to feel emotionally secure as they explore developmentally appropriate risks and play activities. Play elements through the environment offer experiences along a **graduated level of challenge** to promote **skill development**.

5b- Cozy spots under decks and around the structure provide opportunities for children to seek sensory relief, engage in pretend play, or play alone. A variety of gathering areas such as the **Button Climb**, **Benches**, and **Table and Seat for Two** create places to further support children's emotional feelings of security by providing spaces where they can rest, observe, or gather with friends until they are ready to join in.

5c- The play environment includes several **Benches** for comfortable **supervision** and **visibility** of children and addresses ongoing **maintenance**, **durability**, and **safer play experiences** through Play & Park Structure's beyond **compliant** design philosophy.



Principle 6: Be Active- The play environment supports various degrees of physical and social participation in play while minimizing unnecessary fatigue.

6a- The **One-For-All** swing seats are designed for children that need additional support to help maintain a neutral body position so they can sustain their engagement in physical and social play.

6b- Activities such as the **Hand Pedaler** require reasonable operating forces and integrate alternatives to sustained physical effort or repetitive actions that more advanced upper body/climbing activities found on the structure provide. This activity offers a rewarding fitness experience for all users regardless of ability or skill level.

6c- The play environment offers an excellent **range of challenging developmental opportunities**, provides **choices for diverse physical characteristics**, intentionally promotes healthy **physical activity**, and integrates social and cooperative experiences throughout the place space.

6d- Balanced opportunities for social play such as the swings, **Jump N' Bounce**, **Tilt-N-Twirl**, **Telephone Tubes**, and **play panels** specifically selected to promote **social inclusion** are integrated throughout the play environment at ground level and on the structure.



Principle 7: Be Comfortable- The play environment is usable for individuals with sensory needs, diverse body size, posture, mobility, and motor control.

7a- Balcony Deck with Playwheel, Hand Pedaler, Telephone Tubes and Drum Line provide people with and without disabilities comfortable access as they approach and reach for activities whether they are standing or seated for inclusive side-by-side play.

7b- Play panels such as the A-Maze Triple Activity Panels, Flower Maze Panel, Telephone Tubes, and auditory components such as the Drum Line, Rain Wheel, and Music Panel accommodate variations of fine/gross motor control for manipulation, require reasonable operating forces, provide choices to engage with the activity in a variety of ways, and offer rewarding feedback and experiences to the user.

7c- Adequate space on elevated components creates room for movement and traffic flow and ensures space for more than one player to engage in activities. **Accessible routes of travel** to and within the play environment utilize **ramps, wide decks, and poured-in-place surfacing** to offer comfortable space for everybody to access the play space as independently as possible with their friends, adaptive equipment, and/or caregivers.

7d- A combination of **shade** and **natural light** are integrated into the playground and seating areas to help minimize environmental conditions like sun, wind, and heat exposure.

Norfolk Public Schools

Norfolk, VA



For your commitment to implementing best practice principles and incorporating the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design, the Larchmont Elementary Inclusive Playground has been designed to qualify as a

National Demonstration Site for Inclusive Play

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Reviewed By: Jennie Sumrell, Director of Education

PLAYCORE
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Local Recognition – Complimentary Site Sign

Usage of National Demonstration Site seal

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Being listed on a National Database so that traveling families will know where they can find an inclusive playground.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE BENEFITS

